



MARVEL

SHINICK
RODRIGUEZ
LOPEZ

003



HOW DEEP DO YOU
HAVE TO GO TO
PERPETUATE A LIE?

MY NAME IS JOHN MYERS.
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
MISSILE MATE. I'M ONE
OF RODERICK KINGSLEY'S
NEW HOB-HEROES.

AT LEAST I WAS, UNTIL
I DECIDED TO BETRAY HIM
IN FAVOR OF PHIL URICH,
THE CITY'S NEW SELF-
APPOINTED GOBLIN KING.

I'VE TRIED MY BEST TO
CONCEAL MY NEW ALLEGIANCE,
BUT SOMETIMES I WORRY.



WORRY THAT KINGSLEY'S
PRYING EYES CAN SEE
RIGHT THROUGH ME.

CHANGING WHO YOU
ARE IS NOT AS EASY
AS YOU MIGHT THINK.
ALTHOUGH I GUESS
SOME DO IT WITH EASE.



TAKE KINGSLEY, FOR EXAMPLE.
FOR YEARS HE WAS THE INSIDIOUS
HOBGOBLIN, YET NOW HE'S
KNOWN AS A **HERO**. NOT A HINT
OF HIS OLD SELF.

COULD HIS MORAL
COMPASS REALLY HAVE
CHANGED SO QUICKLY?
I CERTAINLY CAN'T FIND
ANY PROOF TO THE
CONTRARY.



AND ANY EXPERT WILL TELL YOU THAT A
PERSON WITH SOMETHING TO HIDE WILL
ALWAYS GIVE THEMSELVES AWAY.

THEIR WORDS WILL
SOUND HOLLOW.

THEIR SENTIMENT
WILL SEEM FALSE.

AND THEIR ACTIONS
WILL APPEAR...

...CARTOONISH.

YET HERE HE IS IN FRONT OF A CROWD OF ADORING FANS BEING HONORED FOR ALL THE GOOD WORK HE'S DONE.

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT THE GOBLIN KNIGHT WANTS. TO TAKE HIM DOWN IN A PUBLIC FORUM SO THAT HIS MESSAGE IS CLEAR.

THE MESSAGE THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE GOBLIN KING, AND URICH IS IT.

WE'VE PLANNED THIS FOR DAYS, YET THE MOMENT IS HERE QUICKER THAN I HAD HOPED.

I SAY "WE," BUT I REALLY MEAN "ME," SINCE URICH HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IF I WANT TO BE HIS NEW GOBLIN KNIGHT, I NEED TO DELIVER THE FATAL BLOW MYSELF. IT'S NOT SOMETHING I'VE DONE BEFORE, BUT REST ASSURED...

I DON'T INTEND TO FAIL.



Meet RODERICK KINGSLEY on HOBGOBLIN DAY!



**KEVIN
SHINICK**

WRITER

ELLIE PYLE
EDITOR

**JAVIER
RODRIGUEZ**

PENCILER & COLORIST

NICK LOWE
SENIOR EDITOR

**ALVARO
LOPEZ**

INKER

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

**VC's CLAYTON
COWLES**

LETTERER

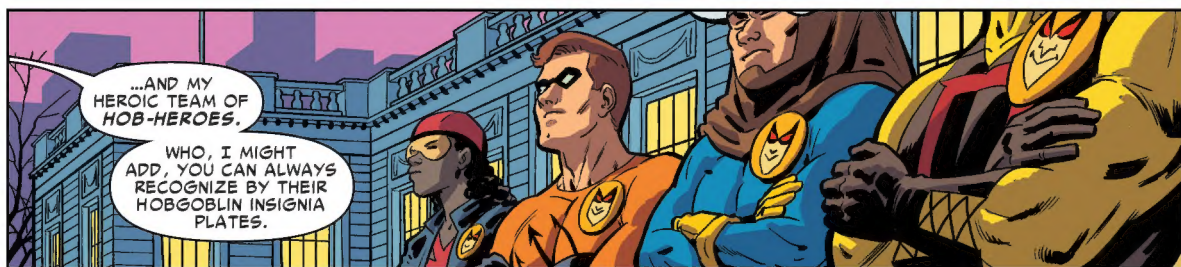
JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

**JAVIER
RODRIGUEZ**

COVER ARTIST

ALAN FINE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



BROOKLYN.
DAYS AGO.

DOES
HE SUSPECT
ANYTHING?

NOT
THAT I CAN
TELL.

WE HAVE
TO BE SURE. IF
HE EVEN GETS THE
SLIGHTEST HINT
OF...

WILL YOU
TAKE THAT MASK
OFF?!

WHAT? I'M
TRYING TO GET
USED TO IT.

IF
I'M GONNA
BE YOUR NEW
GOBLIN KNIGHT,
I WANT TO BE
READY.

THERE'S
MUCH TO DO
BEFORE YOU FILL
THOSE SHOES. DON'T
UNDERESTIMATE
HIM.

HAVEN'T
I SHOWN YOU
THAT I HAVE WHAT
IT TAKES? DIDN'T
I DELIVER HALF
YOUR TEAM?

DON'T BE
SO PETULANT.
YOU'RE NOT HERE
BECAUSE YOU
DELIVERED
THEM...

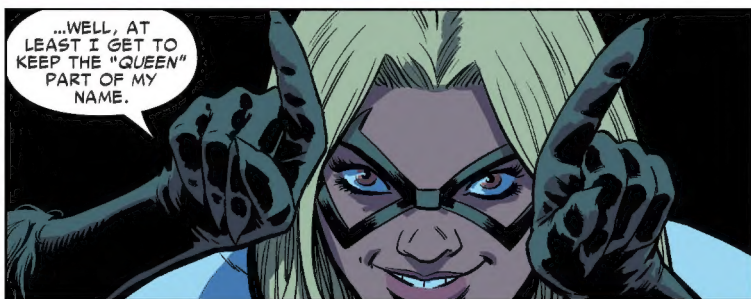


...BUT
BECAUSE YOU
DELIVERED
HER.

DON'T GIVE
HIM TOO MUCH CREDIT.
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO
CAME FOR ME. AND EVEN
IF I DON'T REMEMBER
ALL THE DETAILS...



"IF YOU'RE TELLING ME
WE WERE ONCE PARTNERS,
AND NOW YOU'RE THE NEW
GOBLIN KING..."



...WELL, AT
LEAST I GET TO
KEEP THE "QUEEN"
PART OF MY
NAME.



NOT UNTIL
THE HOBGOBLIN
IS DEAD.

JUST
LEAVE THAT
TO ME.

AND
DON'T SCREW
IT UP.



THANKS.
ANYBODY ELSE
HAVE ANY PEARLS
OF WISDOM?



YEAH.
BE
SURE IT'S
HIM.



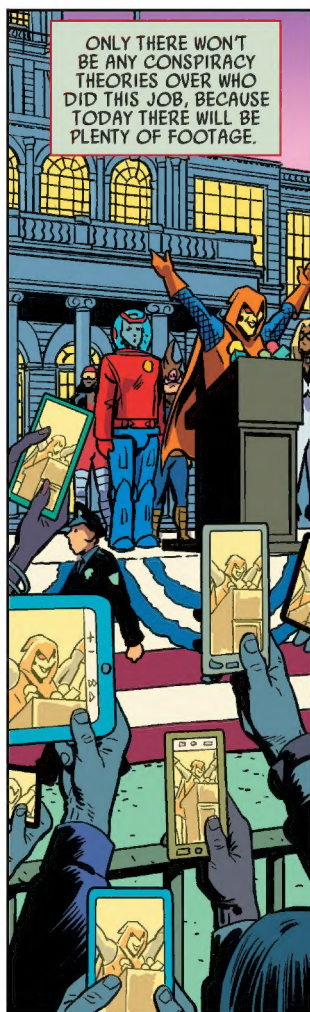
URICH'S REQUEST IS A VALID ONE. IT SEEMS EVERY TIME THE HOBGOBLIN IS KILLED, IT TURNS OUT SOMEBODY ELSE WAS UNDER THE MASK.

I WISH URICH WOULD'VE LET ME KILL KINGSLEY BACK AT HEADQUARTERS WHEN I KNEW FOR CERTAIN IT WAS HIM, BECAUSE THIS CROWD IS MAKING ME NERVOUS.

I BEGIN TO WONDER WHETHER LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS THIS NERVOUS. AND THEN IT DAWNS ON ME THAT THE ONLY THING STANDING IN THE WAY OF ME BEING AS FAMOUS AS LEE HARVEY OSWALD...

AND BY WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN KEEP THIS CITY SAFE.

...IS THE REMOVAL OF A MASK.



ONLY THERE WON'T BE ANY CONSPIRACY THEORIES OVER WHO DID THIS JOB, BECAUSE TODAY THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF FOOTAGE.



AS SOON AS HE REMOVES THAT MASK...



AND I'LL HAVE DONE WHAT NO ONE ELSE COULD.



WHEN HE FINALLY TAKES OFF THAT MASK.



AND HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU CAN TRUST SOMEONE?

HERE IT COMES.

WHEN YOU CAN LOOK THEM DIRECTLY IN THE EYES.

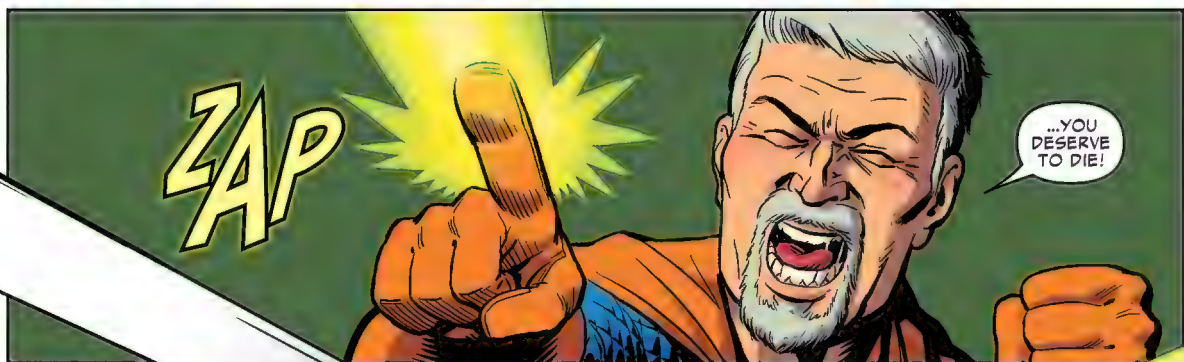
JUST TAKE OFF THE MASK.

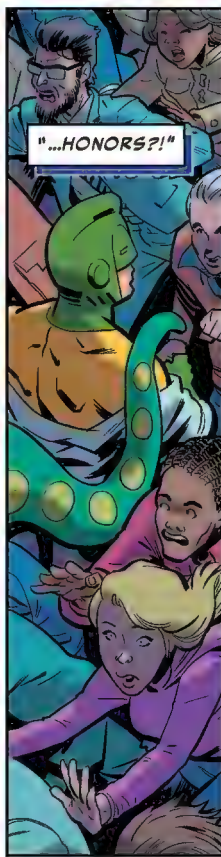




AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!









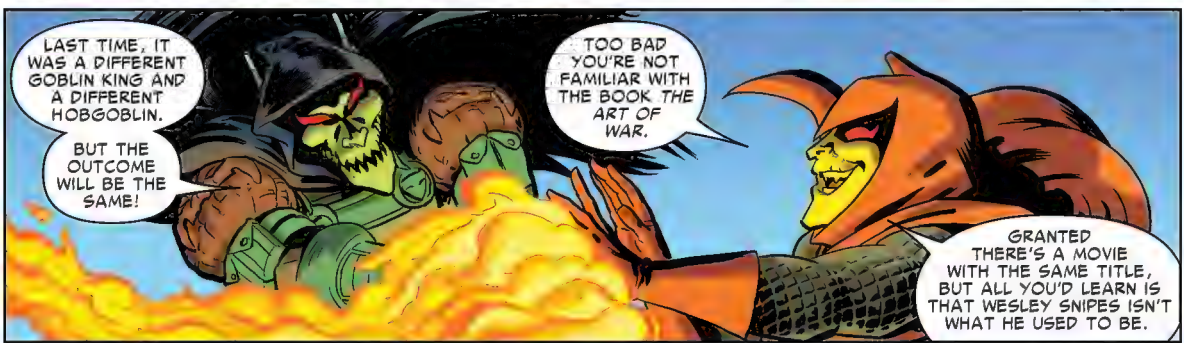


IT'S ALSO
A MOVIE, YOU
KNOW!

AHH, YES,
OF COURSE.
MY BAD.

IT'S JUST
THAT THE LAST TIME
I PLAYED ONE-ON-ONE,
IT DIDN'T EXACTLY END
IN THE HOBGOBLIN'S
FAVOR, NOW
DID IT?*

*SEE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #26
-PREVIOUSLY PYLE

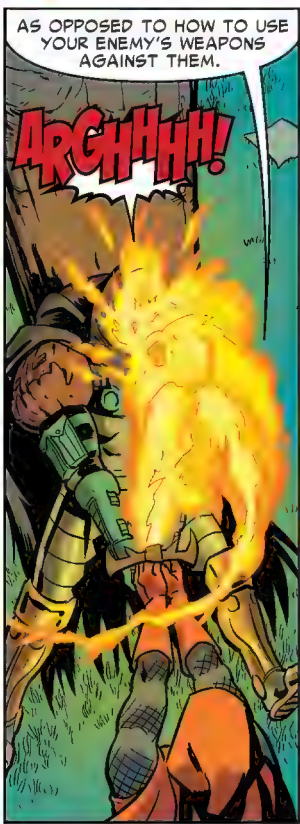


LAST TIME, IT
WAS A DIFFERENT
GOBLIN KING AND
A DIFFERENT
HOBGOBLIN.

BUT THE
OUTCOME
WILL BE THE
SAME!

TOO BAD
YOU'RE NOT
FAMILIAR WITH
THE BOOK THE
ART OF
WAR.

GRANTED
THERE'S A MOVIE
WITH THE SAME TITLE,
BUT ALL YOU'D LEARN IS
THAT WESLEY SNIPES ISN'T
WHAT HE USED TO BE.



AS OPPOSED TO HOW TO USE
YOUR ENEMY'S WEAPONS
AGAINST THEM.

ARGHHHHH!



YOU
COULDN'T
DEFEAT OSBORN,
AND YOU WON'T
DEFEAT ME,
OLD MAN.



STILL
SO DESPERATE TO
BECOME OSBORN,
HUH?

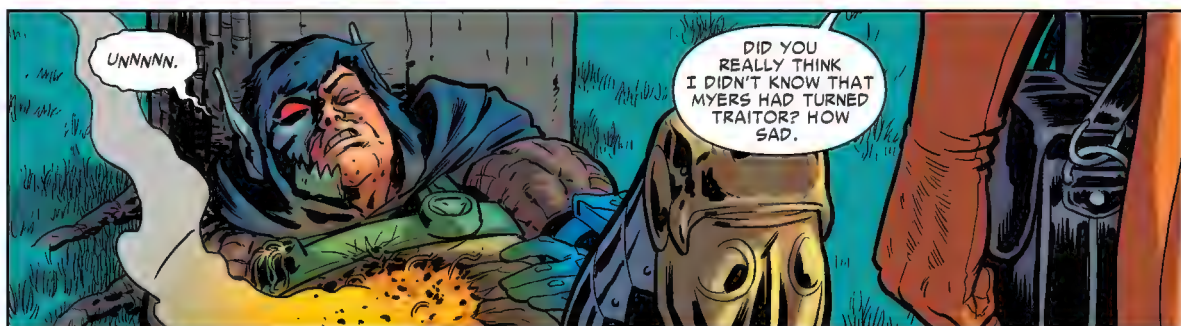
WELL...



...WHY
DON'T I HELP
YOU?!

UNGH!

CRUNK



UNNNNN.

DID YOU
REALLY THINK
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT
MYERS HAD TURNED
TRAITOR? HOW
SAD.



A TRUE
LEADER KNOWS
THE THOUGHTS OF
EVERY MEMBER
ON HIS TEAM.



HE IS
SURPRISED BY
NOTHING AND
NO ONE.



SEE
YOU IN HELL,
KINGSLEY.



OH, YOU WEREN'T
EXPECTING QUEEN
CAT HERE TO STAB
ME IN THE BACK,
WERE YOU?

BECAUSE
SHE'S A HOB-
HERO THROUGH AND
THROUGH. HOW ELSE
DID YOU THINK
I KNEW ABOUT
MYERS?

I'M SORRY,
PHIL. WE MIGHT HAVE
SHARED A BOND ONCE,
BUT IF AN ACCIDENT ERASED
THAT PART OF MY LIFE,
THEN MAYBE IT WASN'T
AN ACCIDENT AFTER
ALL.

MAYBE IT
WAS A GIFT. AND
I'M NOT GOING
TO WASTE
IT.



YOU MADE THE WRONG CHOICE, LILY. MY GOBLIN NATION WILL RIISISE.

HE'S SO CUTE WHEN HE'S DELUSIONAL, ISN'T HE?

HIS TEAM HAS RUN OFF, AND STILL HE HAS HOPE.

WELL, WE'LL LET HIM HAVE HIS FANTASY. ONE THING'S FOR CERTAIN. HIS LITTLE GOBLIN NATION...

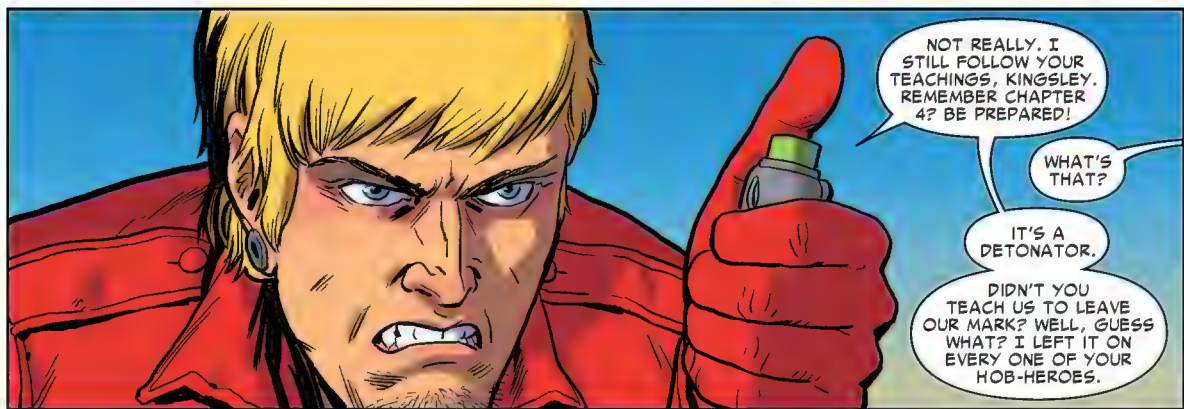


...WILL ALWAYS RESIDE IN A HOBGOBLIN WORLD.



WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM? YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING. I WAS GOING TO BE THE NEW GOBLIN KNIGHT.

YES, AND NOW YOU'RE JUST A LOSER.



NOT REALLY. I STILL FOLLOW YOUR TEACHINGS, KINGSLEY. REMEMBER CHAPTER 4? BE PREPARED!

WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S A DETONATOR.

DIDN'T YOU TEACH US TO LEAVE OUR MARK? WELL, GUESS WHAT? I LEFT IT ON EVERY ONE OF YOUR HOB-HEROES.



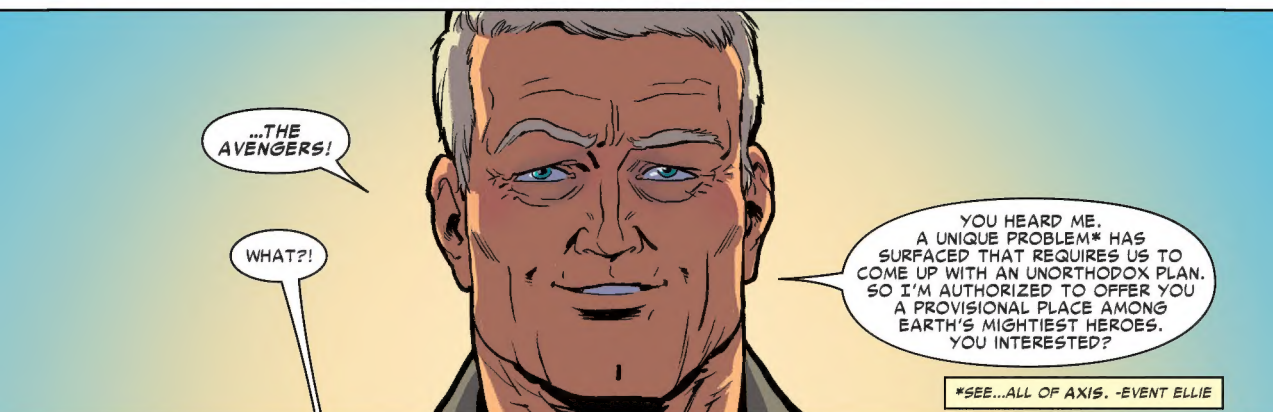






YOU CAN'T TAKE AWAY MY GROUP. I CREATED THESE HEROES.

WELL, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN JOINING A DIFFERENT GROUP. SAY...



...THE AVENGERS!

WHAT?!

YOU HEARD ME. A UNIQUE PROBLEM* HAS SURFACED THAT REQUIRES US TO COME UP WITH AN UNORTHODOX PLAN. SO I'M AUTHORIZED TO OFFER YOU A PROVISIONAL PLACE AMONG EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES. YOU INTERESTED?

*SEE...ALL OF AXIS. -EVENT ELLIE



HMMM. WHAT'S THE GOING RATE FOR AN AVENGER THESE DAYS?

SAME AS ALWAYS...



...RESPECT.



IT'S A START. BUT THERE BETTER BE A CHRISTMAS BONUS.

FIND OUT WHAT OTHER CLASSIC VILLAINS ARE NOW AVENGERS IN **AXIS #6!**